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SUMMARY

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France

USES FOR FIBRE BOARD IN CONSTRUCTION IN LESS-DEVELOPED AREAS

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No. 244 D.13

USES FOR FIBRE BOARD IN CONSTRUCTION IN LESS-DEVELOPED AREAS

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SUMMARY

Fibre board is defined as a thin material in the form of sheets, made from vegetable fibres, and cohering as a result of the felting of the fibres and their own adhesive properties (sometimes with added binders).

These sheets are classified according to their volume mass into soft sheets and hard sheets, and each type appears either as manufactured (standard) or after processing (treated).

The production of fibre board dates back some fifty years. It is localised essentially in Western Europe and North America and output is used almost entirely (80%) in the production areas.

The cost of fibre board has fallen steadily since its introduction owing to the industrial nature of the manufacturing process.

Fibre board may be made by the "wet" process (water is the vehicle for the fibres and assists the natural bonding of the latter in the hot press) or the "dry" process (air is the vehicle for the fibres which are glued by means of resins, polymerised in the hot press).

The technical characteristics of fibre board, i.e. dimensions, weight, mechanical strength, resistance to humidity and insulating power (thermal and acoustic), are given in the paper.

The sphere of application of fibre board is difficult to define for such a versatile material which finds numerous applications as a facing material in:

building (very wide possibilities) - furniture - fitting out of public buildings - vehicle coachwork - various industries.

Techniques for applying fibre board are characterised by their simplicity; the essential precautions to be taken are preliminary stabilisation and care with joints. The great ease of finishing is emphasised and also the advisability of using fibre-board for large surfaces and not in a localised manner.

The building needs of less-developed countries are mentioned, with special reference to quantity, urgency and price.

The positive contribution of fibre board to meeting such requirements is considered especially interesting owing to the ease of obtaining this cheap material, which can be used in many ways without specialised material or labour.

It can be applied without skilled labour and dries immediately.

Its large dimensions allow of very rapid work, and finishing is very easy and may even be omitted by using special board.

Fibre board has proved its worth in all the industrially developed countries of the world and is undoubtedly a material of interest for constructional purposes in the developing countries.

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